Mr. President: The question is that Schedules I and II of the Bill stand part of the Bill.

Motion put and carried

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Prime Minister)*: Sir, I move that the Bill may be taken up and finally passed on Saturday.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Constitutional Adviser)*: I second it.

Mr. President: The question is that the Cochin Salaries and Allowances Act (Amendment) Bill be taken up and finally passed on Saturday, the 18th October 1947.

Motion put and carried.

2. The Cochin Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill—*(cont.)*

Mr. President: The next item on the Agenda is the Criminal Law Amendment Bill. Mr. Kumaran Ezhuthassan will continue his speech.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Mr. President, day before yesterday, when the Council rose I was on the topic of how the public opinion in Cochin views this unwanted, mischievous, retrograde, uncivilised measure namely the Criminal Law Amendment Act which is the first gift of the Nationalist Ministry of Cochin unto the people of Cochin. It came here as I observed the other day as early as the last session. It travelled on to this session. It was taken up and the opposition started by me in a House consisting of empty benches in the last session, was interrupted by the clock on that day and by the intrusion as a result of the wisdom of the Ministry of the day by putting, rather putting in the Agenda the Salaries Bill, which has been passed just now, that is strictly speaking, Sir, something which I could have objected to according to the Standing Orders, but because of the subject which I thought, I would be able to move by amendments and improve I did not raise that point. Very good, Sir, that is passed and we have seen what is the result achieved by that intrusion by that un-notified Salaries Bill. That being so, Sir, some time which could have been used in discussing this vital matter in having speeches both of the persons who don't want it, persons who support it, and of the third variety ot persons amongst whom you will find, Sir, a large number today, I prophesy, whose speeches will not show whether they oppose it or support it, and there will be the precious plea of sending the Bill to a Select Committee, a scene which ordinarily the sponsors of unwanted measures resort to and attempt to beguile the opposition. Anyhow, Sir, the time at our disposal is very limited. Try to do justice to the cause of the public of Cochin which is my duty, Sir, so long as I remain a member of this House. Sir, I submitted on the last day the position that I took up that as measured by three known unerring barometers of measuring public opinion the first being the Press of the State, the second associations and organisations, and the third the Platforms. I was on platforms when the House rose. I was referring then, Sir, to two meetings, one of the day previous to the day before yesterday and the other on the previous day to that day. Now a passing word about those two meetings just to show the value that we should give to those meetings. Now, Sir, the meeting on Monday, I mean Sunday, the attendance at that meeting was eight times larger than the attendance at a more important meeting, because of the nature of the meeting, inaugurating Gandhi Jayanthi held on the same Maidan presided over by no less a person than the completely foreign cloth-clad President of that day who is the leader of a party of socialists, who has earned the name of "Ayyappan socialism" and addressed amongst others by the Congressite Premier of Cochin. The attendance at the meeting of last Sunday was as assessed by me on both days 8 times the attendance of that more important meeting. What do they say. Persons who had come out to organise the suffering section of the people, the industrialists, workers, the workers in the paddy fields, the agriculturists, the cultivators and others, persons who have come out to do service by uniting them, by organising them, by fighting for their rights, by getting them food, at least for one meal a day and sufficient number of yards of cloth to cover their nakedness and to have, Sir, at least a small hut where to sleep during night after hard toil during day time. That is the sort of persons who had organised that meeting and what about the audience. The audience consisted, Sir, of the elite of the metropolitan of Cochin, the audience had in it a large section of the students of the Colleges and High schools of Ernakulam and the vicinity, who are the future citizens of Cochin, who are our hope and many others were there. All of them contributing eight times the attendance at the more important meeting I referred to before and studied, well-measured, well-balanced, well-weighed words unlike the ones that at times in self-protection are attempted by some of the Ministers in this House, were used there, Sir, from that platform. Questions were put if there is one in this audience which I have already

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[Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan]

described. who says that they want the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act which is coming up for consideration in this House within a few hours of that meeting, that is at 11 o'clock on the next day (Monday). Please tell us, please inform us that for the safety of the country, for the tranquility of the country, for the maintenance of order in the country, this Rowlet Act of Cochin is wanted. Please tell us. That was the cry that was made unto this audience described by me. There was not a whisper Sir. On the other hand, "let it be buried" those words were sprung from very many quarters of that audience, audience which consisted the elite, which had in it the future generation, the hope of the student world and poor people like myself, who do not belong either to the one or the other. That was the verdict of that meeting and the other meeting on the next day also, Sir, perhaps which was slightly less of attendance after that event, that event which caused the adjournment of this House without an adjournment motion on Monday at 4 o'clock—after the meeting assembled at 5—in that meeting also the question that had been put to the audience before were put more categorically and the answer came in the same strain as before. There was a large change in attendance in numbers and in the kind of people, but all the same I assure you, Sir, if you will believe me, the audience on neither of these days had any element of the riff-raff of any country. No. if all of them were not the student world, none of them belonged to the riff-raff. Sir, you will be forced rather compelled to mind these things by elements in Cochin who know how to make to understand things, who will play their part and achieve results without this Rowlet Act of Cochin. The Government, the nationalist Government, the congressite Premier of Cochin, locking up many a public worker, inclusive of myself, in the Viyyoor Jail and helping us from the difficulties of the six oz. ration which I described yesterday—we will get plenty of food there, we will be properly looked after, timely meals will be given—but mind you Sir, that we are not hoping it for the pleasures that we get there. No. To serve the public, to fight out your errors and that attempts are made by us to save you and us from your erring—we have not succeeded—and therefore we will be there.

5. ADJOURNMENT MOTION

Mr. President: Order. Order. There is an adjournment motion by Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : Now on another topic, Sir.

Mr. President: The adjournment motion runs as follows.....

*Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*)* : Thank you Sir. I have got it.

"To discuss an urgent matter of public importance, to wit, the difficult situation arising out of the recent changes introduced in the distribution of cloth on the ration card system".

Mr. President: The subject matter of the adjournment motion is to discuss the difficult situation arising out of the recent changes introduced in the distribution of cloth on the ration card system.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): Now Sir, I am giving the House the great surprise Mr. Kumaran Ezhuthassan's adjournment motion is going to be brief, and I sit down Sir, even before the allotted time. But before that time, telling you what I have to say and exposing the system in its complete nakedness.

ഇതിന്റെ ഫലമെന്തായിരിക്കുമെന്നു് അറിഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെയാണു് ഇതിവിടെ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു്, ഞാൻ ഇതു പൊതുജനമുമ്പാകെ എന്റെ കർത്തവ്യനിർവ്വഹണമെന്നല്ലാതെ ഇതിന്റെ പിന്നിൽ മറ്റു യാതൊന്നുമില്ല.

എന്റെ അടിയന്തരപ്രമേയത്തിന്റെ വിഷയം ഇന്നതാണെന്നു അദ്ധ്യക്ഷനുവർക്കും മറ്റു കൂടി ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുത്തി കാണിച്ചതിൽ ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തോടു നന്ദിപറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

The difficult situation arising out of the recent changes introduced in the distribution of cloth on the card system Sir, I have got authoritative information on this subject, *i.e.* the old system must go by about the 24th of September. That is although the system was arranged on paper the officer concerned took charge only on that day. That is the information I have gathered from various dailies. The Government version is that the Director of Food Supplies took charge on 24th September 1947. Now this distribution of cloth was managed and continue to be managed in certain sections as before viz, the quota for whole-salers—there is no change and the quota for retailers also there is no change. There is change proposed to be introduced. I deliberately use the words 'proposed to be introduced' because it is not introduced under the card system; formerly also under the permit system.

* Speech not corrected by Hon'ble Member.

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